5. The desirability of utilising a fixed proportion of the revenues from each taluk for the requirements of that taluk.

Mr. Joseph Thomas (Member, Minachil Taluk) said that, while a large portion of the State revenue was being spent upon certain taluks of the State, certain other taluks, chiefly in North Travancore, were being neglected, as it were, by the Government, and their agricultural, educational, industrial and other needs were being but meagrely provided for. One of the pleas urged by the Government for not satisfying the requirements of the people was want of funds. The real reason for the neglect, however, was not far to seek. Those taluks whose needs were being attended to drew the attention of the Government over and over again to those needs and the result was the neglect of the other taluks. The complaint in question would not have arisen if a definite percentage of revenue derived from each taluk had been spent upon that taluk, expenditure on account of payments to the Palace and the British Government, etc., being borne by all the taluks alike. He was of opinion that the revenues and expenditure of each taluk should be shown separately in the budgets in future and that a committee should be appointed to formulate proposals for the equitable distribution of expenditure in proportion to the revenues contributed by the several taluks. He pointed out as an analogy the tendency in British India to grant autonomy to provincial Governments in regard to finance, and showed how step by step the central Government had been surrendering its financial control over the Provinces until each province secured the right to spend the major portion of its revenues on itself, the central Government being allowed to demand only a certain contribution from the provincial revenues. He said that Travancore might adopt the same course in the matter of the distribution of its expenditure among the various taluks of the State.

Lastly, he suggested that Advisory Boards consisting of elected and nominated members might be formed in each taluk to watch its needs and to offer their opinion in the preparation of the State budget.

Dewan's reply.—This is a subject which has been brought before the Assembly over and over again. The Member will excuse me if I say that he has exaggerated the so-called disabilities of certain taluks. Government do not make any distinction as between one taluk and another. The proposition that the expenditure should be allocated down to rupees, annas and pies among the various taluks in proportion to the revenue contributed by them is not one which will commend itself to this House as a whole. We have, no doubt, to remember the needs of the various parts of the country in distributing the expenditure, and Government, I believe, have been in the past paying and will continue in the future to pay due regard to the needs of the various parts of the country. Conditions must vary from place to place and it is not a matter of practical politics to lay down any hard and fast rule for the allocation of expenditure among the various taluks of the State. It will, however, be the earnest endeavour of Government to extend the benefits of the administration to places which do not now enjoy them in full measure.

6. Reduction of expenditure on the public service.

Mr. N. Madhavan Nair B. A. & B. L. (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) said that the increase in expenditure from 1095 to 1098 had been very abnormal, that there had not been any appreciable increase in the permanent and stable items of revenue, and that it had become imperative to curtail expenditure to avert Government drifting into bankruptcy. The necessity for the reduction of expenditure became all the more pressing, since additional taxation could not be contemplated, every source of revenue having been already tapped to its utmost capacity. He observed that the increased expenditure of the State was chiefly on the public services, due to the maintenance of costly departments of doubtful utility such as the Land Records Maintenance Department, the creation of several high-paid appointments such as that of the Land Revenue Commissioner, and the disproportionate and useless continuance of superfluous officers such as Assistant Superintendents of Police, several of the Assistant Excise Commissioners and the Personal Assistants sanctioned to certain officers. He was of opinion that the present increased expenditure could not be

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